

GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE SENATE AND THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER.

A Lengthy Debate and a Recorded Vote—Two Hours of Executive Session—Railroad Rates for Freight—Routine Proceedings of Both Branches.

In the Senate yesterday at half-past 10 o'clock Mr. Johnson called for the special order of the day, which was House bill amending the Code so as to provide that the Commissioner of Agriculture shall be elected by the General Assembly instead of being appointed by the Governor.

The question recurred on the motion of Mr. Berry to reconsider the amendment of Mr. Harrison, providing that the commissioner shall be a practical farmer, actually engaged in the cultivation of the soil at the time of his election. The amendment was reconsidered, and Mr. Little offered another amendment providing that the commissioner shall be a practical farmer, whose chief occupation at the time of his election and previous thereto shall have been the cultivation of the soil; but any commissioner elected under this act shall be qualified for reelection.

Mr. Little spoke to his amendment, and claimed that Dr. Whitehead had gone out of his province to criticise the action of Senator.

A PRACTICAL FARMER.

Mr. Harrison agreed with Mr. Little as to the fact that the commissioner should be a practical farmer, but was in favor of paving the way to reelection, or, perhaps, of leaving the commissioner, and to this effect he opposed the latter clause of Mr. Little's amendment. He reviewed the history and organization of the Board of Agriculture, and could find no trace in the Code of Virginia, 1887, in regard to the duties of county superintendents of schools.

HOUSE ROUTINE.

Introduced and referred: By Mr. Preston: Resolution relating to fees of Commonwealth attorneys, with a view to reducing the criminal expenses of the state.

Mr. Bredtwater: To allow Peter H. Davis to build a wharf at his place, known as Davis' wharf, and also at his recently purchased place in Williamsburg, both to be used for manufacturing, and should have full control of the agricultural interests of the State.

Mr. Berry opposed the amendment, and defended the commissioners of Agriculture. He said that when the time of electing the commissioners came, then the remarks made would be germane to the subject, and not before. He wanted the bill passed as it came from the House of Delegates.

Mr. Moore said he was willing to vote for a practical farmer for Commissioner of Agriculture. That was all that the farmer had asked for, and was fully satisfied. He thought it would be unwise to tie the hands of the Legislature with any other qualification than that the commissioners should be a practical farmer.

THE VOTE RECORDED.

Mr. Harrison called the voting question, and the question before Mr. Little's subcommittee was decided by the following vote:

Asyes—Messrs. Barnes, Blackstone, Gordon, Harrison, Heaton, Johnson, Lawless, Little, Lloyd, Mills, Pleasanton, Davis, Turner, Woods—14.

Nos—Messrs. Arthur, Berry, Bradley, Yorke, Jones, Julian, Lovenden, Moore, Roberts, and Wickham—11.

Messrs. Echols and Stabbs were paired on executive session.

The bill was on motion, passed by and carried in the regular order for to-day at 1 o'clock, when it will come up on its passage, and the matter of making it incumbrance upon the Assembly to elect the Commissioners of Agriculture will then be suspended.

The Senate, on motion of Mr. Lovenstein, went into executive session. At 3 o'clock the doors were thrown open, and when the clerk was asked what was done, the reply came back, "Nothing to do, the session is adjourned."

THE RAILWAY CONSOLIDATION.

A Joint Committee of Council and Aldermen Appointed on the Subject.

A called meeting of the Common Council was held yesterday evening at 7 o'clock, at which the following members were present: Mr. Thomas P. Campbell, president and member of the committee; Mr. W. W. Wren, Mr. Higgins, Christian, Courtney, Royal White, Stratton, Moore, Isaac Carter, Ferrier, Mullen, Griesmyer, Scott, Bowden, Becker.

President Campbell called the meeting to order and explained that its object was to take such steps as might be deemed necessary to protect the city's interests in the matter of the bill now pending before the General Assembly of Virginia touching the consolidation of the several street railway companies in the city, together with the electric light and power companies.

JOINT COMMITTEE.

Governor's Circular-Letter to the Mayors of Virginia.

An interesting meeting on that subject to be held Saturday evening, at the hall of the First Christian Association.

In behalf of the association for the preservation of Virginia antiquities, there will be a most interesting occasion. Governor McKinley, Messrs. Thos. Nelson Page and Joseph C. Wright, will be present.

Mr. Peters: For the relief of E. H. Moorman, deputy treasurer of Campbell county.

Senate bills passed: To incorporate the Granite Camp Confederate Veterans, Department of Virginia.

To incorporate the Suffolk Electric Light and Power Company.

To incorporate the Old Dominion Investment Company.

To incorporate the Colored Mutual Progressive Association of Prince Edward, Cumberland and Amelia counties.

To authorize the consolidation of the Alexandria and Fredericksburg Railway Company and the Orange and Alexandria.

To incorporate Morrison Lodge of Brothers of Friendship.

To incorporate the Washington, Alexandria and Falls Railway Company.

Senate bills passed: To authorize the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company to construct or acquire by purchase or otherwise, and to maintain and operate and mortgage a railroad in the state, commencing at its line east of the Blue Ridge mountains, with a branch line in a country favored by general climate and every attraction to out-of-door life and adventure, the history of Virginia, taken from that of the United States, would leave a void of which the new line, a large one, will be able to take part.

There will also be issued by some stockholders.

To incorporate the Valley Land and Improvement Company.

THE LEE MONUMENT.

Governor's Circular-Letter to the Mayors of Virginia.

An interesting meeting on that subject to be held Saturday evening, at the hall of the First Christian Association.

Mr. Lee is nearly completed, and it will ready for shipment in time for the moving to take place on the 15th of January.

Two meetings in the interest of the monument have been held since Governor McKinley has been in office, over which he presided.

The Governor is taking great interest in the statue, and has directed the ladies of the association to undertake the task of their laudable undertaking is strong public sentiment, finding expression in liberality. The meeting Saturday night should do much to nourish such a sentiment.

THE EQUITY LEAGUE OF AMERICA.

At a meeting of Jefferson Court No. 33, Equitable League of America, the following officers were elected: President, Mr. J. C. Dickerson, president, and Messes. Hargrove, Wm. M. Hill, Crenshaw, Lee, Howell, Wilkinson, L. R. Carter, Taylor, Williams, Brown, Sneed.

President Dickerson explained the object of the meeting. It was similar to that which was held in the Common Council, and the substitute was voted down.

The said rules and regulations were adopted.

Mr. C. R. Stratton moved as a substitute that the judges and clerks of election shall be chosen by the candidates to be voted for at such primary. No cause for office can be a better proof of party, and both clerks and the election must take an oath to conduct the election according to the rules and regulations prescribed.

SECTION 4 says that the judges and clerks shall have all the powers and shall be subject to all the penalties prescribed by law for the offices and oaths of the general and special election.

Section 5 makes it a misdemeanor to fraudulently vote at the primary election, punishable by fine and imprisonment.

THE NORFOLK & W. RAILROAD.

At 1 o'clock the bill to incorporate the Virginia and Potomac and Transportation Company, better known as the Norfolk Ferry bill, came up as the special order. It was debated for an hour and a half and was finally ordered to its engrossment by a vote of 30 to 26. It was then referred to another motion to pass by another motion to pass by the motion to reconsider. The latter motion was agreed to.

DANGERS FROM ELECTRICITY.

A bill was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Lovenstein for the prevention of danger from electric currents, which provides that any citizen may authorize and fix a primary election for the purpose of nominating suitable persons for the offices to be filled at the succeeding general or special election, provided it shall not exceed ten days after the general or special thirty days.

The expenses are to be paid by the citizens or political party holding the primary elections.

The primary shall be conducted under such rules as the legislature may prescribe.

The said rules and regulations were adopted.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

The Board of Aldermen convened in called session immediately after the adjournment of the Common Council. Present: Mr. J. C. Dickerson, president, and Messes. Hargrove, Wm. M. Hill, Crenshaw, Lee, Howell, Wilkinson, L. R. Carter, Taylor, Williams, Brown, Sneed.

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THE OBITUARY RECORD.

MR. JACOB GUNST DEATH-BURIAL OF MR. GEORGE W. WARREN.

Mr. Jacob Gunst died Tuesday evening at 1 o'clock at his home in Albany, N. Y. He was for years one of Richmond's most highly respected business men. About four years ago he moved to Albany from Richmond, where he spent his last days in retirement. He was a man of commanding presence and a leader in the community.

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